

FORESTRY, LAND, & RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: May 21, 2014

TIME: 4:00 p.m. Committee Room 1, 2nd Floor, Court House, Rhinelander, WI

PRESENT: Chair Sorensen; Committee Members: Mott, Rudolph, Van Raalte, Zunker
Forestry Staff: Bilogan, Bradley.

OTHERS: Les Felbab, OCATVA. Brian Hegge, RASTA. Jane Severt, WCFA

CALL MEETING TO ORDER— At 4:00 p.m. Chair Sorensen called the meeting to order, noting that it had been properly posted in accordance with the procedures set forth by the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA WITH THE ORDER OF AGENDA ITEMS AT CHAIR'S DISCRETION— It was moved by Van Raalte, seconded by Mott, to approve the current agenda with the order of agenda items at Chair's discretion. All aye. Motion carried.

OVERVIEW OF FORESTRY DEPARTMENT RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACTIVITIES

John Bilogan used a Powerpoint slideshow to explain the history of County Forest Law, Oneida County's role in forestry and recreation, and the Forestry Department's duties and responsibilities. He provided information about administration, grants, and revenue. He explained the scope of the Forestry Department, and gave examples of the department's commitment to provide the public with safe, attractive recreation assets.

Jane Severt, of the WCFA spoke to the committee about the laws and regulations which County Forests must follow and enforce. She spoke about the politics of the forestry industry and the efforts made to make changes to keep the County Forest administration current with changing guidelines.

Brian Hegge of RASTA spoke next, with an overview of the organization and the trails they maintain for silent sports enthusiasts. He appreciates the volunteers and feels that RASTA has done a good job promoting Rhinelander as a tourist destination. There was discussion about the fact that timber harvesting will likely disrupt the silent sports aesthetic in the Washburn area. Both he and Bilogan felt that any problems can be addressed as they arise.

Lester Felbab of OCATVA then spoke about the ATV/UTV club and trails. He explained grooming, graveling, equipment, and plans for future trail development.

ADJOURNMENT. With business completed, it was moved by Van Raalte, seconded by Mott, to adjourn at 6:10 p.m. All aye, motion carried.

JACK SORENSEN
VICE-CHAIR

JILL BRADLEY
RECORDING SECRETARY